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April 22, 1963

Dr. Luca Cavalli  
18, Via Fatebenesorelle  
Milan, Italy

Dear Luca,

I was very pleased indeed to get your tape. Again it will take me some time to digest all of the features of it, but there were a few things I thought I should communicate with you right away as I can answer them promptly.

I am most delighted that Howie Cann will be able to work on the natality project and let me say right away that we will definitely make some provision to allow him to continue on it next year. I would suggest that we jointly, that is you and I, submit an application for an NIH grant to cover this and other expenses and I would like to suggest that you think about this for a week or so to be able to react to a more detailed proposal that I will be sending later on. The actual final proposal should be ready not later than May 15 in order to be processed here before it goes in by the June 1 deadline. My present thought is that it would be most appropriate to have the application come from Stanford University but with you as the co-investigator and with Howie as the principal research associate on it. Quite likely when he comes to Stanford if he continues on this line of work, he might take over the administrative responsibility for it.

I have a lot to tell you about, especially concerning computers and the time sharing and direct display systems that are being set up here. We have decided to go into this in a systematic and professional way and are making quite a large commitment, particularly from our Exobiology program in this general direction. The situation is really very much different from what it was the last time I saw you. I really would like to urge you, if there is any possibility of it, that you do plan to come out to the West Coast for at least a day or so during your visit in the Winter. I think that would be much more profitable from your standpoint than if I were to see you in the East Coast since you would not be able to see what is going on in this regard.

Cavalli

When I visited in Pavla, you or Anthony Edwards was recommending a book on the mathematical theory of graphs and I believe that you were going to send me either a copy of the book or at least the name of it. If this has happened, I have lost track of it and would very much appreciate getting back to it.

Do you know a book by Iverson called a Programming Language? This is one of the nicest systematic accounts of the organization of programming statements that I have ever seen and I believe it does have some useful things to say about trees. By the way, your indication of results on this sounds very exciting indeed and I hope we will have a chance to hear more about it from you.

Unless I think of more before this letter goes out that should be all for now. Best as ever,

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg

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